

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

ACDA-07 IO-13 EUR-12 SAJ-01 AID-05 /095 W

-----162136Z 068861 /61

P R 160905Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2165

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KNCC LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON WITHDRAWAL OF US
TROOPS AND OTHER ISSUES

REF: SEOUL 1313

1. REPEATED BELOW IS LETTER FROM KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES (KNCC) TO PRESIDENT CARTER. KNCC DOES NOT PLAN
TO RELEASE COPIES OF THIS LETTER. HOWEVER, KNCC BOARD
HOPES TO RECEIVE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S RECEIPT
OF LETTER AND WOULD APPRECIATE EVEN MORE A REPLY WHICH
WOULD COMMENT ON POINTS MADE.

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"MR. PRESIDENT:

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN KOREA WISHES TO EXTEND SINCERE
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR INAUGURATION AS THE
THIRTY-NINTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AT A TIME
WHEN A NEW AGE CALLS FOR NEW LEADERSHIP. WE HAVE BEEN DEEPLY
IMPRESSED BY THE WORDS OF YOUR INAUGURAL ADDRESS IN WHICH YOU
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STRESS A CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CALL FOR THE BUILDING
OF A NEW MORAL HISTORY, AND ALSO BY YOUR FAITH WHICH EMPHASIZES
JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND HUMILITY.

AT THE SAME TIME WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER YOUR
PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM
KOREA, AND WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR VIEW OF THE MATTER.

IN KOREA WE HAVE LONG SUFFERED UNDER THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT REGIME, THE DEPRIVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM, AND THE TRREAT OF COMMUNIST INVASION. THE CHURCHES OF KOREA, FOLLOWING CHRIST'S GOSPEL OF LIBERATION AND SALVATION, HAVE LED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

WHEN WE THINK OF OUR PAST WE REMEMBER GRATEFULLY THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES MADE POSSIBLE THIS NATION'S LIBERATION FROM JAPANESE COLONIALISM. YET WE VIEW WITH GREAT REGRET THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWING A SHORT-SIGHTED ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND IN AN ATTITUDE OF UNPRINCIPLED POLITICAL COMPROMISE, ALLOWED THE TRAGIC DIVISION OF OUR NATION CONTRARY TO THE HOPES OF OUR PEOPLE. WE BELIEVE THAT AT THE VERY LEAST THE UNITED STATES MUST SENSE ITS MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS TRAGEDY OF HISTORY.

WITH THE OUTBREAK OF WAR ON JUNE 25TH, 1950, WHEN COMMUNIST TROOPS INVADED THE SOUTH, THE UNITED STATES CAME IMMEDIATELY TO OUR AID UNDER THE FLAG OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN YOUNG MEN IN THIS LAND FOR THE SAKE OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE KOREAN PEOPLE. YET WE REMEMBER WITH REGRET THE FACT THAT AT THAT TIME THE STATEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE BECAME ONE OF THE CAUSES OF THE NORTH KOREANS' PROVOKING THE TRAGEDY OF THE KOREAN WAR.

TODAY WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE DANGER THAT THE ISSUE
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OF AMERICAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL MAY SERVE TO ENCOURAGE THE NORTH KOREANS IN THEIR SEARCH FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO INDULGE THEIR AMBITION TO INVADE SOUTH KOREA. MOREOVER, WE REMEMBER ONLY TOO WELL THE UNITED STATES' ABANDONMENT OF VIETNAM AND THE PRESENT SUFFERING OF HER DEMOCRATIC LEADERS UNDER A COMMUNIST REGIME, A TRAGEDY BROUGHT ON BY THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF THE PRESSURE OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, AND KISSINGER-STYLE POLITICAL REALISM. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT UNITED STATES BACKING OF UNDEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. BUT WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO ABANDON A POPULATION WHO LOVE FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE SAKE OF A POLICY WHICH REJECTS THEIR UNDEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. FURTHERMORE, WE THINK THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD INVITE THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS NATION'S CHURCHES AND THEIR REMAINING FREEDOM OF BELIEF.

WE, OF THE CHURCHES OF KOREA, WISH ALSO TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN THAT YOU MAY EVALUATE THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN KOREA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF JAPAN'S SECURITY NEEDS. IF YOU

ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE REALITY OF KOREA'S BITTER OPPRESSION
FOR THIRTY-SIX YEARS UNDER IMPERIAL JAPAN, WE BELIEVE THAT YOU,
AS ONE WHO HAS SYMPATHY FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN OPPRESSED, WOULD
UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN OTHERS THE KOREAN SITUATION. WE HOPE
YOU WILL KEEP IN MIND WHAT AN ENCOURAGEMENT THE AMERICAN
PRESENCE AND AID ARE TO THE KOREAN PEOPLE AS THEY WORK FOR
THE REALIZATION OF THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND HUMAN
RIGHTS WHICH THEY SO LOVE.

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THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY THE CHURCHES OF KOREA HAVE NEVER
FLAGGED IN THEIR DETERMINATION AS THEY CARRY ON THE RIGHTEOUS
STRUGGLE FOR THE REALIZATION OF DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
IN THIS LAND. EVEN NOW WE ARE RESOLVED TO MAKE WHATEVER
SACRIFICES MAY BE CALLED FOR IN ORDER TO EXTEND FREEDOM, JUSTICE,
AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS LAND. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOUR WILL
TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THESE DEEP CONVICTIONS OF THE KOREAN
PEOPLE AND CHURCHES AND THAT YOU WILL RECONSIDER YOUR POLICY
REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM KOREA.

FINALLY, WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE GREAT
ENCOURAGEMENT YOUR DEEP FAITH IN CHRIST PROVIDES TO THOSE OF US
IN KOREA WHO FOLLOW CHRIST IN THE STRUGGLE INTO WHICH HE LEADS US
AS HE GIVES HIMSELF THROUGH LOVE AND SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF
UNJUSTLY ALIENATED PEOPLES AND THE POOR OF THE WORLD.

YOURS SINCERELY,
(REV.) KIM, KWAN SUK
GENERAL SECRETARY"

END QUOTE

3. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED.

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Message Attributes

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